

OFFICER DECISION NOTICE



Reading
Borough Council
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This notice is to be used for the following types of officer decisions. (Select one option).

☒ **A.** Decisions taken by officers under a specific express delegation from Council or a Committee.

☐ **B.** Decisions taken by officers under a general delegation from Council or a Committee, which relates to (i) a permission or a licence, or (ii) the rights of an individual, or (iii) a contract or expenditure over £100,000.

1. Title of decision:	Deed of Variation for 2025/26 on the BCF Section 75 Framework Agreement 2024/25
2. Date of the decision:	10 June 2024
3. The decision maker:	Executive Director of Communities and Adult Social Care.

4. Decision details:

To vary the Section 75 Framework Agreement 2024-25 to reflect the 2025/26 BCF Plan and funding arrangements for this joint framework agreement with the Integrated Care Board, for pooling of funds aligned to the Better Care Fund Plan and the addition of the Inequalities Funding to support delivery of the Community Wellness Outreach Project.

5. Reasons for the decision:

To ensure compliance with the Better Care Fund Grant National Conditions for a shared agreement in relation to the management of the Better Care Fund, including agreed funding distribution, risk share and reporting.

6. Alternative options considered (if any) and rejected:

Not applicable as this is a statutory requirement under the National Conditions of the Better Care Fund 2025-26.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2025-to-2026/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2025-to-2026>

And the preceding BCF policy framework for 2023-25 and addendum thereto:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025/addendum-to-the-2023-to-2025-better-care-fund-policy-framework-and-planning->

7. List of open Background Papers: None

8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers:

Section 75 Framework Agreement 2024/25 between Reading Borough Council and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care Board (ICB) – not published.

9. Any other matters taken into consideration:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legitimate expectation of consultation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedural requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Health implications	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental or Climate Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management implications
<input type="checkbox"/> Transparency of Information (FOI etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Privacy Impact Assessments
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Act Duties	<input type="checkbox"/> Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Parenting	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Safety
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulatory duties	<input type="checkbox"/> EU withdrawal
<input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Covenant	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Details of the matters taken into account:

The Section 75 Framework Agreement is a regulatory requirement under the Better Care Fund policy framework and this Officer Decision Notice is drawn up in compliance with Reading Borough Council's procedural requirements, with delegated authority from the Health and Wellbeing Board to the Executive Director of Communities and Adult Social Care in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Health and Wellbeing.

A meeting took place between Melissa Wise and Cllr. Rachel Eden on 23/07/2025 to confirm this decision.

10. Legal considerations

The Section 75 Framework Agreement for 2024/25 was reviewed by the Legal Team, queries were addressed and feedback incorporated. It is a requirement that the Section 75 be agreed by both main parties, Reading Borough Council and the Integrated Care Board. Provision was made in the agreement for 2024/25 for a Deed of Variation in 2025/26, pending release of BCF policy and agreement on the BCF Plan for that period.

11. Financial considerations

The total Better Care Fund for 2025/26, including end of year adjustments for 2024/25, is £21,177,782 supporting out of hospital services and adult social care services. The funding is split between the Integrated Care Board and Reading Borough Council for commissioned services and projects to support delivery against the Better Care Fund Metrics.

12. Internal consultations

The Better Care Fund Plan was shared with the DCASC Directorate Leadership Team, Corporate Management Team, Lead Members, Committee Briefing, Reading Integration Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board for consultation prior to final agreement and submission. The Section 75 Framework Agreement has input from the Finance Lead, Integration Programme Manager, Integrated Care Board and Legal Services.

Sections 13- 18: To be completed only for Decision A (express delegation from a Committee)	
13. The name of the Committee:	Health and Wellbeing Board
14. Date of the meeting:	06 October 2023
15. Minute number:	14 (5)
16. The delegation given by the Committee:	<p>That the Executive Director of Communities & Adult Social Care be authorised to enter into the Section 75 Framework Agreement in relation to the Better Care Fund Plan.</p> <p><i>The Section 75 Agreement is an annual requirement under the BCF Policy Framework.</i></p>
17. The name of any member of the committee who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:	None
18. Any councillor or officer required to be consulted prior to the exercise of this delegation and details of their response.	Lead Councillor for Public Health and Wellbeing,